

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
Water Resources Division  
Water Rights Bureau

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact**

Note: Instructions to DNRC staff for preparing this EA can be found at:  
[http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/eis\\_ea.html](http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/eis_ea.html)

**Part I. Proposed Action Description**

1. *Applicant/Contact name and address:* COOK – LEHRKIND INVESTMENTS  
2066 STADIUM DRIVE UNIT 202  
BOZEMAN, MT 59715
2. *Type of action:* APPLICATION FOR PROVISIONAL PERMIT TO APPROPRIATE WATER #  
30001469-41H
3. *Water source name:* GROUNDWATER
4. *Location affected by action.* SENWSW SEC. 20, NESWSWSEC. 20. T1S, R5E, GALLATIN  
CO.

*Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:*

The applicant is applying to use water from two new wells to supplement flow and volume in Valley Grove subdivision. The needed additional flow is 655 gpm and 350 acre-feet to accommodate irrigation and domestic use.

5. *Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment:*  
(include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction)

Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
Montana State Historic Preservation Office  
Montana Natural Resource Information System  
Gallatin Local Water Quality District  
Gallatin County Planning Office  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

**Part II. Environmental Review**

1. **Environmental Impact Checklist:**

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

**WATER QUANTITY, QUALITY AND DISTRIBUTION**

**Water quantity** - Assess whether the source of supply is identified as a chronically or periodically dewatered stream by DFWP. Assess whether the proposed use will worsen the already dewatered condition.

Determination: SEE BELOW AS TO GROUNDWATER

**Water quality** - Assess whether the stream is listed as water quality impaired or threatened by DEQ, and whether the proposed project will affect water quality.

Determination: SEE BELOW AS TO GROUNDWATER

**Groundwater** - Assess if the proposed project impacts ground water quality or supply. If this is a groundwater appropriation, assess if it could impact adjacent surface water flows.

Determination: A PUMP TEST CONDUCTED SHOWED 250 GPM OF AVAILABILITY FOR WELL #3 AND IS USING AVAILABILITY INFO FROM WELL #2 TO INTERPOLATE THE AVAILABILITY FOR WELL #4. FOR WELL #3 REBOUND OCCURRED IN 13 MINUTES AND THE WELL IS COMPLETED AT 146' AND WELL LITHOLOGY INDICATES THERE IS ISOLATING STRATA UP-HOLE.

**DIVERSION WORKS** - Assess whether the means of diversion, construction and operation of the appropriation works of the proposed project will impact any of the following: channel impacts, flow modifications, barriers, riparian areas, dams, well construction.

Determination: THE DIVERSION WORKS ARE TWO WELLS FOR 250 AND 405 GPM. THE WATER WILL BE MANIFOLD AND USED IN THE VALLEY GROVE SUBDIVISION.

#### **UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES**

**Endangered and threatened species** - Assess whether the proposed project will impact any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any "species of special concern," or create a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife. For groundwater, assess whether the proposed project, including impacts on adjacent surface flows, would impact any threatened or endangered species or "species of special concern."

Determination: NO THREATENED OR ENDANGERED PLANTS OR ANIMALS ARE LOCATED ON THIS SITE, ACCORDING TO THE MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM.

**Wetlands** - Consult and assess whether the apparent wetland is a functional wetland (according to COE definitions), and whether the wetland resource would be impacted.

Determination: NO WETLANDS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ADVERSLY AFFECTED IN THE AREA OF STUDY.

**Ponds** - For ponds, consult and assess whether existing wildlife, waterfowl, or fisheries resources would be impacted.

Determination: NO PONDS IN THE AREA OF STUDY.

**GEOLOGY/SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE** - Assess whether there will be degradation of soil quality, alteration of soil stability, or moisture content. Assess whether the soils are heavy in salts that could cause saline seep.

*Determination:* NO SALINE SEEPS WERE IDENTIFIED AT THE SITE.

**VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY/NOXIOUS WEEDS** - Assess impacts to existing vegetative cover. Assess whether the proposed project would result in the establishment or spread of noxious weeds.

*Determination :* NATIVE GRASSES ARE TO BE SEEDED OVER THE DISTURBED LAND, AND MONITORING WILL CONTINUE.

**AIR QUALITY** - Assess whether there will be a deterioration of air quality or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.

*Determination:* No impacts identified.

**HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES** - Assess whether there will be degradation of unique archeological or historical sites in the vicinity of the proposed project.

*Determination:* NO RECORDS INDICATE PREVIOUSLY RECORDED CULTURAL PROPERTIES WITHIN THE PROJECT SITE.

**DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AND ENERGY** - Assess any other impacts on environmental resources of land, water and energy not already addressed.

*Determination:* NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED.

<b>HUMAN ENVIRONMENT</b>
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**LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS** - Assess whether the proposed project is inconsistent with any locally adopted environmental plans and goals.

*Determination:* NOT INCONSISTENT WITH ADOPTED PLANS OR GOALS

**ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES** - Assess whether the proposed project will impact access to or the quality of recreational and wilderness activities.

*Determination:* NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED.

**HUMAN HEALTH** - Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.

*Determination:* NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED

**PRIVATE PROPERTY** - Assess whether there are any government regulatory impacts on private property rights.

Yes\_\_\_ No\_X\_. If yes, analyze any alternatives considered that could reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights.

*Determination:* .

**OTHER HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES** - For routine actions of limited environmental impact, the following may be addressed in a checklist fashion.

*Impacts on:*

- (a) Cultural uniqueness and diversity? NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED
  - (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues. NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED
  - (c) Existing land uses? NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED
  - (d) Quantity and distribution of employment? NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED
  - (e) Distribution and density of population and housing? NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED
  - (f) Demands for government services? NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED
  - (g) Industrial and commercial activity? NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED
  - (h) Utilities? NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED
  - (i) (i) Transportation? NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED
  - (j) Safety NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED
  - (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances? NO IMPACTS IDENTIFIED
2. ***Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:***  
THESE WELLS WILL LIKELY LOWER THE POTENTIOMETRIC SURFACE OF THE AQUIFER OVER TIME.
3. ***Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:*** NONE IDENTIFIED
4. ***Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative, if an alternative is reasonably available and prudent to consider:*** NO ALTERNATIVES ARE PLANNED AT THIS TIME.

### **PART III. Conclusion**

*Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required?* NO

*If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:* AN EA IS APPROPRIATE FOR THIS PROJECT

*Name of person(s) responsible for preparation of EA:*

*Name:* Porter Dassenko

*Title:* WATER RESOURCE SPECIALIST

*Date:* 8/9/2006